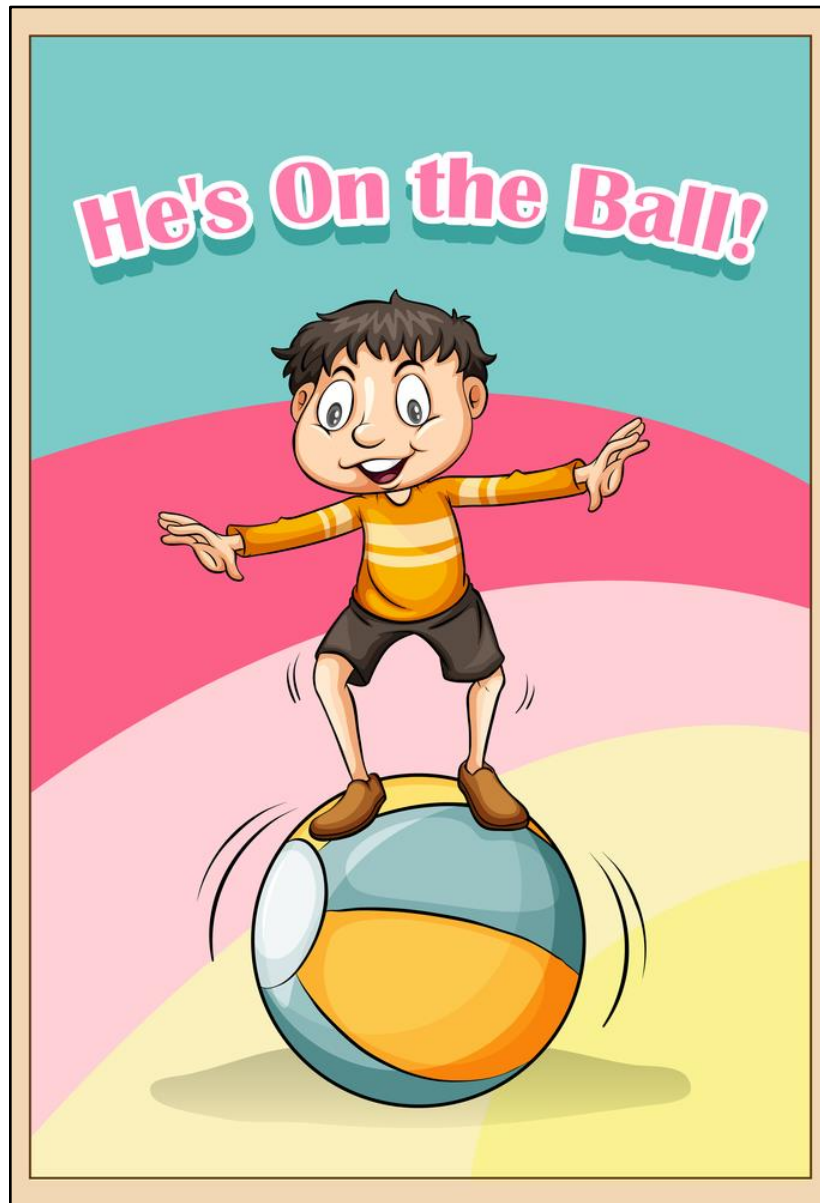


## On the Ball



Sometimes people may say, "He's on the ball!" or "She's on the ball!" This may seem like a silly thing to say. Balls are very round and they roll. Why would someone say something like, "Joe is really *on the ball!*" when Joe isn't near a ball, would not try to stand or "be" on one, and is not on a ball team?



“He’s (or she’s) on the ball!” is an idiom, a phrase with its own meaning. Many years ago, British soccer fans were the first to use the phrase, “...on the ball” to describe players who were paying attention, who knew where the ball was and what to do next.

A person does not have to be playing soccer or any sort of sport to be described as being “...on the ball.” People often use the idiom to describe anyone who is working well and making intelligent choices. “You are on the ball!” is a compliment, a kind thing to say to a person who is alert, making smart choices, or focused on a task.